

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NV-040-04-013

Corral Well Pipeline and Troughs, Muncy Creek Allotment

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Ely Field Office

Prepared by:
Michael Perkins
September 9, 2004

Introduction

This environmental assessment (EA) addresses the impacts to public land resources from a proposal to implement the Corral Well Pipeline and Troughs, a water pipeline range improvement.

Need for the Proposal

The need for the proposal is to improve the rangeland health and watershed condition in the Muncy Creek Allotment by providing water to new locations, to distribute and disperse grazing. A need to improve the rangeland resources (plant communities) on the Muncy Creek Allotment has been identified by past and present rangeland monitoring data and qualitative observations gathered for this allotment.

Relationship to Planning

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Schell Management Framework Plan (MFP), dated April, 1983, and the Schell Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and subsequent Record of Decision approved June 1983 and July 1983, respectively. This action would help to implement the livestock management decisions from these approved land use planning documents. The MFP decision RM-4.1 states in part, "Install livestock management facilities, where feasible, or assist grazing permittee to develop those facilities consistent with the findings of EA's." The proposed action is consistent with the White Pine County Land Use Plan of May 1998 and the White Pine County Elk Management Plan dated March 1999. The White Pine County Land Use Plan states under Agriculture Policies on page 7, that "Range improvements should be encouraged where appropriate incentive programs and participating financing should be provided."

The pipeline proposal would contribute to achieving the Northeastern Great Basin Area Resource Advisory Council Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration and Healthy Rangelands. Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration were developed by the Northeastern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on February 12, 1997. Standard 2 (Ecosystem Components) states in part, "Watersheds should possess the necessary ecological components to achieve state water quality criteria, maintain ecological processes, and sustain appropriate uses."

Issues

During the internal scoping process the issue identified to be addressed in regard to the proposed action was maintaining rangeland health and watershed condition.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to install a 10,000 gallon storage tank and approximately 3.1 miles of 1-1/2" water pipeline in generally a west/east direction through the Muncy Allotment on the Snake Mountain Range, Nevada (Map A). The Muncy Creek Allotment is a category "M" (maintain) allotment. The maintain category allotments were identified in 1987 as having second priority for funding of rangeland improvements and developing Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) and third priority for use supervision. The Corral Well is located at T. 18 N., R. 69 E., Section 31, NW 1/4 of the SE 1/4. The pipe would be buried with a ripper mounted on a bulldozer at a depth of 18 inches or deeper where possible. The pipeline would run down an established two track road for two and three-quarters miles then cross Wyoming/perennial grass rangeland until reaches a small hill of pinyon-juniper, Wyoming sagebrush perennial grass rangeland and travel uphill for about two-tenths of a mile. Once on top, the pipeline would run in a northerly direction for another two-tenth's of a mile to the last trough. A backhoe would be used in three places for the installation of three troughs along the line. The legal locations of the three troughs, from west to east, are as follows:

Trough #1 T. 18 N., R. 69 E., Sec 32 SESE.

Trough #2 T. 18 N., R. 69 E., Sec 33 NWSE.

Trough #3 T. 18 N., R 69 E., Sec 28 SWNE.

The entire legal description for the Corral Well and pipeline is: T. 17&18 N., R. 69 E., Sections 31, 32, 4 (two track road crosses approximately 100' of Forest Service administered Land), 33, and 28 (Map B). The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) would provide funding for the permittee, to purchase the storage tank, 3.1 miles of 1 1/2" pipe and the troughs with valves and attachments. The Ely BLM would conduct the environmental assessment, cultural survey and bury the pipeline. The project would be built to BLM standards and specifications. The permittee, would haul the storage tank into the well, hookup the pipeline and troughs, attachments and valves, and assume maintenance responsibility through a cooperative agreement. Float valves would be placed in each trough to regulate water flow and conserve water. Bird ladders would be installed in all troughs. Maintenance of the project could include digging up portions of the line for necessary repairs.

Water from the pipeline would support approximately 80 cattle between May 15th and November 15th each year. When cattle are trailed to and from Forest Service allotments, up to 250 cattle could use the pipeline. These cattle would use water from the pipeline for seven days or less. Water would also be available for wildlife, mainly elk and mule deer. Water in the pipeline would be shut off when cattle are not authorized to graze the area.

Construction of the pipeline would commence during the summer of 2004 and would take from one to two weeks. The pipeline would be buried to protect it from adverse weather conditions and from trampling by livestock or wildlife.

It is not expected that the pipeline would be constructed during the migratory bird nesting period, from May 15 to July 31. If the pipeline is constructed during that period, a survey for nesting migratory birds along the proposed pipeline route would be completed by the Ely Field Office wildlife biologist in order to determine if construction can proceed. Bird ladders would be placed in each trough as escape ramps for wildlife. Cross-country travel by vehicles and construction equipment would be permitted along the pipeline route during construction and for maintenance purposes. Heavy equipment used in the construction process would be washed prior to entering the area, in order to help prevent weed establishment.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) to be followed for the project are those approved by management and are listed in Appendix I to this document.

Upon completion of the pipeline, a final inspection would be made to ensure compliance with specifications. Any deficiencies would be corrected at that time. Periodic compliance checks for maintenance would be made by the rangeland specialist or wildlife biologist following pipeline completion in conjunction with routine rangeland monitoring of the Muncy Creek Allotment.

The vegetative resource would continue to be monitored in the long term using several rangeland monitoring methods. Monitoring and data collection would continue in the form of establishing key areas, monitoring utilization levels, frequency trend, ecological condition, cover, observed apparent trend, actual use reports, and compliance checks. This data would be collected by the rangeland management specialist and/or wildlife biologist.

Both the immediate disturbed area and an area for several miles surrounding the project would be monitored by the rangeland management specialist/wildlife biologist following construction for noxious or invasive weeds or nonnative species. Further mitigation measures for weeds are identified in the Noxious Weed Risk Assessment in Appendix II.

The State of Nevada Water Engineer has determined that new water rights applications need to be submitted whenever water is developed beyond a 40 acre water source area. Therefore, before the proposed action is implemented, permittees would need to submit a new water rights application for a change in place of use.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the water pipeline extension would not be built. Water would continue to be provided for livestock at existing water locations.

Alternatives Considered but Eliminated From Detailed Analysis

Hauling water for livestock distribution to the area of the proposed project was also considered as an alternative method for achieving project goals. Water hauling was eliminated from detailed analysis for the following reasons:

1. The two track roads in the Muncy Creek Allotment are not suitable for water hauling during any grazing period, because of mountainous terrain.
2. Water hauling would be more costly economically in the long term.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The affected environment is described in the Schell Grazing EIS/MFP. The Muncy Creek Allotment (#272410) encompasses approximately 207,906 acres of public land with intermingled private lands. The allotment is situated in northern Spring Valley and the Snake Range north of Highway 50, in the east northern portion of the Ely District, and is approximately 50 air miles east of Ely. The allotment occurs within the Spring Valley and Snake Valley North watersheds. The proposed project area is entirely within the Snake Valley North watershed. The allotment is bordered on the west by the Schell Creek Mountains. A portion of the Marble Wash WSA occurs within the allotment. The allotment is partially fenced. Elevations range from 6,000 feet at valley bottom to 10,037 feet on O'Neal Peak. Average annual precipitation is 8 inches in the valley to over 18" in the Snake Range.

Livestock Grazing

Cattle are the only livestock permitted to graze within the Muncy Creek Allotment. The Muncy Creek Allotment is divided into eleven separate use areas for livestock grazing. The allotment covers approximately 207,900 acres of public land, and extends from the Schell Creek Range into the far west portion of Snake Valley. George Eldridge and Sons, Inc. are the livestock grazing permittee's for the Muncy Creek allotment. An allotment management plan (AMP) was completed for the allotment in the early 1970, and revised in 1971 and 1978. The AMP established a grazing rotation system for the allotment, which is currently practiced. Flexibility in periods of use identified in the AMP is allowed to adjust to variations in climate and forage production.

The area of the proposed pipeline is grazed by livestock primarily during June through early November, due to the high elevation. The proposed project area (Pasture 11) is grazed in conjunction with Pasture 10 along with allotments administered by the US Forest Service. Most of the cattle are moved into the proposed project area in late spring or early summer prior to entering US Forest Service administered allotments. Some cattle are left in the proposed project area all summer. In the fall, cattle are then trailed from Forest Service administered allotments through the project area to winter range. Actual use data for the past two years (2002 and 2003) within the project area is listed below in Table 1:

Table 1. Actual livestock grazing use in Pasture 11 of the Muncy Creek Allotment.

Number of Cattle	Period of Use	AUMs
2002		
333	07/01/02 to 07/03/02	33
250	07/04/02 to 07/04/02	8
197	07/05/02 to 07/08/02	26
111	07/09/02 to 07/10/02	7
104	07/11/02 to 07/12/02	7
95	07/13/02 to 07/13/02	3
81	07/14/02 to 08/02/02	53
40	08/03/02 to 08/08/02	8
21	08/09/02 to 08/31/02	16
49	09/01/02 to 10/01/02	50
114	10/02/02 to 10/03/02	7
24	10/04/02 to 10/16/02	10
41	10/17/02 to 10/22/02	8
50	10/23/02 to 10/23/02	2
53	10/24/02 to 11/05/02	23
2003		
10	06/06/03 to 07/31/03	18
69	08/01/03 to 11/09/03	229
42	11/10/03 to 11/28/03	26
29	11/29/03 to 12/05/03	7

Vegetation

The proposed pipeline traverses through three main dominant vegetation types: curlleaf mountain mahogany, pinyon-juniper, and black sagebrush. However, Wyoming sagebrush occurs in some areas of the drainage bottom where the proposed pipeline would be installed. Understory species within the curlleaf mountain mahogany, black sagebrush, and Wyoming sagebrush sites include bluebunch wheatgrass, needlegrass, various forbs, with some muttongrass and Sandberg's bluegrass. The pinyon-juniper dominated site is characterized with an understory of black sagebrush and bluebunch wheatgrass. Based on professional observations, all vegetative communities in the proposed pipeline area are in good condition, with a very minor component of the invasive cheatgrass in portions of the drainage bottoms where Wyoming sage brush occurs.

Soils

The soils in the proposed pipeline area are predominately very stony to very gravelly loams that are typical of Great Basin mountain drainages and side slopes. Soils vary from very shallow to deep. The soils are on 15 to 50 percent slopes. The potential for water erosion is moderate to severe depending on specific site.

Cultural Resources

A Class III cultural resources inventory for the project area has been completed. The report number is CCR-04-2004-1538 and the project can proceed with cultural resource monitoring while the proposed pipeline travels up the two-tenth's of a mile through a pinyon-juniper site.

Special Status Species (Federally listed, proposed or candidate Threatened or Endangered Species, and State sensitive species)

The sage grouse is a State of Nevada and BLM sensitive species. There are five documented sage grouse leks (strutting grounds) on the valley portion of the allotment. All five leks have been documented as active this past breeding season, spring 2004. Sage grouse have been observed in the vicinity of the proposed project on three occasions in the past two years. In every incidence, the birds observed were females with their broods. The ferruginous hawk is a State of Nevada and BLM sensitive species. The hawk breeds and nests in the valley portion of the allotment. The threatened bald eagle is a winter resident of the allotment from November through mid-May each year. Eagles have been documented in the valley portion of the allotment and may roost in the mountains attendant to the proposed project area.

Wilderness Values

The proposed action would occur outside of the Marble Canyon Wilderness Study Area and Mount Moriah Wilderness.

Wildlife

Wildlife use of the allotment is typical for the Great Basin environment. In the mountainous terrain of the proposed project, big game species are Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer and mountain lion. Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep can be found in the area but are no longer hunted. Sage grouse have been documented on this portion of the allotment on three occasions over the past two years. The birds observed were all females with their broods. Blue grouse and chukar partridge inhabit the area. Other wildlife species common to the Great Basin can also be found.

Recreation

Recreation in this area is dispersed and includes large and small game hunting, wildlife observation and photography, and occasional off-road vehicle exploration.

Visual Resource Management

This area is a visual resource management class III. According to BLM Manual H-8410-1, the VRM Class III Objectives are as follows:

“The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape. {form, line, color, and texture}.

Air

The Ely area of Nevada has excellent air quality.

Water quality (Drinking/ground).

Sources of drinking water do not occur within the impact area of the proposed action. The ground water, located in a deep aquifer, would not be impacted by the proposed action.

Invasive, Non-native Species (including noxious weeds)

Currently the invasive weed species halogeton (Halogeton glomeratus) and the non-native grass cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum) have been identified in the project area. No known noxious weeds are present in the project area.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The following resources do not occur and would not be impacted by the construction of the proposed water pipeline addition.

- 1) Floodplains and Wetlands.
- 2) Wilderness Values, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- 3) Prime or Unique Farmlands.

The environmental consequences of the following resources have been considered.

- 4) Native American religious concerns.

A tribal coordination meeting was held at the Ely field office on July 15, 2004.

No concerns were expressed by Native Americans in regard to the proposed action.

- 5) Environmental Justice.

No disparate impacts would occur to low income or minority peoples.

- 6) Paleontological and Cultural Resource Values.

During the cultural survey for the project an old horse trap was discovered in the pinyon-juniper woodlands. The trap was constructed back in the 1920's or 1930's.

- 7) Hazardous Wastes.

Hazardous wastes do not exist on the project site nor would they be introduced by the proposed action.

- 8) Migratory birds.

Impacts to migratory birds would not occur because of mitigation built into the proposed action.

- 9) Riparian Areas.

No negative impacts would result from the proposed project to any riparian vegetation.

- 10) Water quality (Drinking/ground).

Sources of drinking water do not occur within the impact area of the proposed action. The ground water, located in a deep aquifer, would not be impacted by the proposed action.

Anticipated impacts of the Proposed Action

1. Livestock Grazing

The Proposed Action would improve distribution of cattle grazing and improved (i.e., lower) utilization levels of key forage species within specific portions of the Muncy Creek Allotment summer range. Improved cattle distribution and reduced utilization would result in enhanced vegetation production, ground cover, vigor, vegetative condition and trend, and watershed condition. Utilization on key vegetative species where cattle normally graze should be reduced, due to improved livestock distribution. Due to increased water availability, livestock would have access to more forage, which should minimize conflicts with wildlife in other areas. Improved livestock distribution, and less utilization of key species would better facilitate the achievement of Northeastern Great Basin Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration. There would be no changes to the livestock grazing permit by implementation of the proposed action.

2. Soils

Impacts to soils (impacts during the first year following pipeline construction) from pipeline installation activities should be minimal. A minor increase in soil compaction and disturbance to soil structure could result, mainly due to vehicle and equipment activity during construction. Minor soil loss would occur. A one to two foot wide strip of soil to a depth of one to three feet would be disturbed to bury the pipeline. Long-term (after the first year following pipeline construction) it is expected that soil characteristics would benefit from the improved livestock distribution resulting from the new water development. Increased forage production and an improved ground cover should result in less soil erosion and better soil/water relations. New disturbed areas of soil of approximately 1/4 acre would develop around each new trough location.

3. Vegetation

In the short-term, some vegetation would be crushed or trampled during pipeline construction. Some pinyon or juniper trees may need to be removed along the proposed pipeline route. It is possible that cheatgrass, an invasive plant, could become established in the pipeline corridor. Cheatgrass is currently present in portions of the project area, and could spread to areas where it currently does not occur (i.e., pinyon-juniper dominated site). The current composition and vigor of native plants within the proposed area should compete well with cheatgrass, causing any establishment of the invasive plant to be minimal. Over the long-term (i.e., within 5 years), native plants should dominate the plant community with only minor component of cheatgrass. The proposed pipeline is expected to improve vegetative vigor, cover, and production over the entire use area as a result of better cattle distribution. New disturbed areas approximately 1/4 acre in size would develop around each new trough location. Impacts to vegetation outside the 1/4 acre area of disturbance are expected to be minimal, particularly since few cattle graze the entire use area throughout the summer

4. Wildlife

Resident wildlife along the pipeline corridor, including birds, small mammals, rodents, and reptiles would be temporarily disturbed and displaced by pipeline construction activity. After pipeline construction, wildlife habitat would be enhanced by improved distribution of cattle grazing which would improve ground cover of forage plants providing better quantity and availability of forage for wildlife. Elk and mule deer in particular would benefit. There could be elk/cattle conflicts at waters along the pipeline. Elk and cattle numbers are low and conflicts of any magnitude are unlikely to occur. Water availability would result in increased wildlife use. Some wildlife drowning could occur even though wildlife escape ramps would be placed in the troughs.

5. Special Status Species (Federally listed, proposed or candidate Threatened or Endangered Species, and State sensitive species).

Sage grouse would be indirectly affected by the proposed action or the resulting grazing use. With improved livestock distribution, lighter grazing pressure in other areas of the allotment could benefit sage grouse by increasing vegetative cover (herbaceous component) and better shield sage grouse broods from predators, both air borne and ground.

6. Cultural Resources

A class III cultural survey was conducted and a historic horse trap is located on the pinyon-juniper hillside that the pipeline will cross. Cultural monitoring will take place during the construction of that phase of the pipeline. There will be no impacts to any cultural resources or paleontological resources by this proposed project.

7. Recreation

The proposed water pipeline would not interfere with recreation activities. The pipeline construction would not occur during any established hunting seasons. There would be no impacts to existing recreational activities. The pipeline corridor is not expected to lead to increased off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the area, since a majority of the pipeline would be constructed along an already existing two track road. The pipeline leaves the two-track for approximately 0.5 miles into a well screened wash. There is the potential that this wash would receive increased off-highway vehicle use.

8. Visual Resources (VRM)

The pipeline ditch would introduce moderate visual contrasts into the landscape. Shrubs, grasses, and forbs would be trampled during pipeline installation; however, vegetation is expected to return to a composition similar to what existed prior to pipeline construction. The pipeline would follow an existing linear disturbance. Vegetative and topographic screening would hide the contrasts from the casual observer. The proposed project is consistent with the Visual Resource Management Class III objectives for this area.

9. Air Quality

A short term, minor, and local impact to air quality could result due to ground disturbance by vehicles and construction activities. There would be dust associated with livestock use around the troughs. Impacts would be temporary and would dissipate quickly.

10. Invasive, Non-native Species (including noxious weeds)

Pipeline building activity should not result in an increase in noxious weeds to the area impacted by pipeline construction. The Risk Factor for spread of noxious weeds is low at the present time (See Appendix II for the Noxious Weed Risk Assessment). Pipeline building activity could result in an increase in invasive or non-native species in the project area. Both the immediate disturbed area and a broader area surrounding the proposed project would be monitored on a regular basis for noxious or invasive weeds or non-native species. Control treatments would be initiated on noxious weed populations that become established in these areas.

11. Water Quantity/Well Source

Implementing the proposed action would result in an inconsequential increase in water use that originates at Corral Well. The same number of cattle that are currently using the existing Corral Well would continue to use that project plus the new trough locations. The new troughs would be on a closed water system. Water *availability* in the native range of the Muncy Creek Allotment would increase for livestock and wildlife to the amount provided by three 550 gallon Powder River Troughs during the period June 1 to November 15 or so each year, depending on water flow availability and weather conditions.

13. Cumulative Impacts

According to the 1994 BLM Handbook “Guidelines for Assessing and Documenting Cumulative Impacts,” the analysis can be focused on those issues and resource values identified during scoping that are of major importance. One issue that has been identified as the need to improve livestock and wildlife distribution within the mountain use area. A general discussion of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions follows:

Past Actions

There have been limited previous actions occurring in the project area. Elk populations were augmented by a release into the area in 2001. Hunting, wildlife viewing, livestock and wildlife grazing, and other recreational activities are the main uses that occur within the area. Two-track roads associated with these activities are not extensive and have not altered the landscape. Large wildfires have been very infrequent in the area. Livestock grazing utilization on key plant species has been slight in the area. Three wells, including the source for the proposed pipeline were constructed in the area nearly 30 years ago.

Present Actions

Current activities or projects occurring in the project area are very limited. Recreational activities including OHV use are currently minimal. There is only occasional use of the two track roads in the area. One wildfire (O'Neal Peak Fire), in mixed conifer fuels, occurred approximately 5 miles northwest of the project area in 2003. Current livestock grazing and wildlife use are not fundamentally altering the plant communities. Implementing the proposed action would contribute to achieving the Northeastern Great Basin Area Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration and healthy rangelands.

Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions

No other range improvements have been planned for the project area. If constructed, the pipeline would improve grazing management, which should result in improved vegetative and watershed conditions. There would be little cumulative visual impairment to the area as a result of the pipeline project. An increase in wildlife use during the summer could occur if the water development is constructed. Vehicle traffic along the two-track road would increase mildly for maintenance of the pipeline and troughs. A slight increase in hunting and wildlife viewing could occur.

There have been limited previous actions occurring in the same area. Past and present actions have resulted in less than desirable livestock and wildlife grazing distribution. The proposed action in association with other actions would maintain or improve healthy rangeland and watershed conditions.

Anticipated Impacts of the No Action Alternative

According to the No Action Alternative, the pipeline extension would not be constructed, and impacts as described above would not occur. Livestock and wildlife distribution and vegetation utilization would not improve. Water and forage availability would not increase for livestock or wildlife. Wildlife habitat would not be enhanced. Vegetative composition, production, cover, and vigor would not improve in areas currently being used by livestock and wildlife. Areas currently being utilized by both livestock and wildlife would continue to be used, causing increased impact from continued annual use of the same area. There would be no impact to soils,

special status species, recreation, visual resources, air quality, or invasive, non-native species (including noxious weeds) from the no action alternative.

There have been limited previous actions occurring in the same area. Past and present actions have resulted in less than desirable range and watershed conditions. The proposed action in association with other actions would improve range and watershed conditions.

Anticipated Impacts of the No Action Alternative

According to the No Action Alternative, the water pipeline extension would not be constructed, and impacts as described above would not occur. Livestock distribution and forage utilization would not improve. Areas of overutilization would not be reduced. Water and forage availability would not increase for livestock or wildlife. Wildlife habitat would not be enhanced. There would be no economic benefit to the livestock permittee. Vegetative composition, production, cover, and vigor would not improve. There would be no impact to soils, special status species, recreation, visual resources, air quality, or invasive, non-native species (including noxious weeds) from the no action alternative. No progress would be made towards achieving Standards and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, land use plan objectives, or other vegetation objectives.

V. PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Appropriate mitigation measures have been included in the proposed action (Section II). No additional mitigation measures are proposed as a result of the analysis of the potential impacts.

VI. SUGGESTED MONITORING

Suggested monitoring has been included as part of the proposed action (Section II). No additional monitoring is suggested as a result of the analysis of potential impacts.

VII. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Intensity of Public Interest and Record of Contacts

There is general interest in the proper management of public lands. George Eldridge and Sons has a strong interest in this project. Individuals contacted during the development of this EA include:

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Betsy Macfarlan, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
Nevada Cattlemen's Association
Mr. Curtis Baughman, NDOW
Friends for Nevada Wilderness
Mr. Lucas J. Phillips

Record of Personal Consultation and Coordination

George Eldridge and Sons (Permittee – Muncy Creek Allotment)
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
Curt Baughman-NDOW

The proposed action was discussed with representatives of the Ely Shoshone Tribe during the Ely Field Office Tribal Coordination Meeting held on December 16, 2003. No concerns were identified during this meeting. The proposed action was again reviewed at the Ely Field Office Tribal Coordination Meeting held July 15, 2004. Again, no concerns were identified.

Internal District Review

Cody Coombs/Craig Hoover
Michael Perkins

Sue Baughman
Karen Prentice
Steve Leslie
Gary Medlyn
Carolyn Sherve-Bybee
Elvis Wall
Larry Martin
Fred Fisher

Rangeland Resources Review
Wildlife Resources, Environmental Coordination,
Environmental Assessment, Weed Risk Assessment,
Threatened and Endangered Species/Riparian/Migratory
Birds
External Outreach/Environmental Coordination
Noxious Weeds
Visual Resources/Wilderness/Recreation
Soil/Water/Air
Cultural Resources
Native American Religious Concerns
Engineering & Operations
Operations

APPENDIX I STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

The following Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) that apply to the proposed action should be followed for the pipeline project:

1. Water at all spring developments will be maintained at the source.
2. Maintenance of pipelines and spring developments will be accomplished by operator(s) through cooperative agreements with the BLM, or through range improvement permits.
3. Project area cleanup will be accomplished by removing all refuse to an approved sanitary landfill.
4. Access will be via existing roads and trails whenever possible. Where existing roads are not available, off road travel will be kept to the minimum necessary for construction.
5. Removal of vegetation will be held to the minimum necessary for construction, access, and to provide for safety.
6. If road maintenance is necessary, it will be conducted by methods approved by the BLM (roads and ditch, maintenance specification drawing NV-0409110-441).
7. Wildlife escape ramps (bird ladders) will be placed within all open water holding facilities.

The "no activity" period for all management actions in migratory bird habitat is from 5-15 to 7/31 unless a survey is done to determine no migratory bird breeding or nesting is occurring in the area.

For any activity scheduled between 5/15 and 7/31 the following must take place:

Area which is going to be disturbed must be clearly identified on appropriate maps.

The wildlife team will conduct breeding bird surveys to identify if migratory bird breeding or nesting is occurring in the area.

APPENDIX II

NOXIOUS WEED RISK ASSESSMENT

On October 9, 2003 a Noxious Weed Risk Assessment was completed by Michael Perkins, wildlife biologist, for the Corral Well Water Pipeline and Troughs, located in White Pine County, Nevada. The legal location for the pipeline is T.18 N., R. 69E., Sections 31, 32, 04, 33, 28. This project would disturb approximately 4 acres of public lands.

Factor 1 assesses the likelihood of noxious weed species spreading to the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as (low,3) at the present time. This means that noxious weeds have been located adjacent to, but not within, the project area. No noxious weeds were observed in the project area during the initial field visit in October 2003 and no concerns about weeds were recorded. The Ely Field Office BLM weed map together with ground observation indicate that Russian knapweed is present along State Highway 50 approximately 13 miles south of the project area however no noxious weeds are present along County Roads leading northeasterly from Highway 50 to the project area.

Factor 2 assesses the consequences of noxious weed establishment in the project area.

For this project, the factor rates as (low,3) at the present time. This means that there is very little likelihood that noxious weeds will spread to the area disturbed by the proposed pipeline. The project size and degree of surface disturbance will not be extensive. No cumulative effects of noxious weeds spreading to the native plant community are expected.

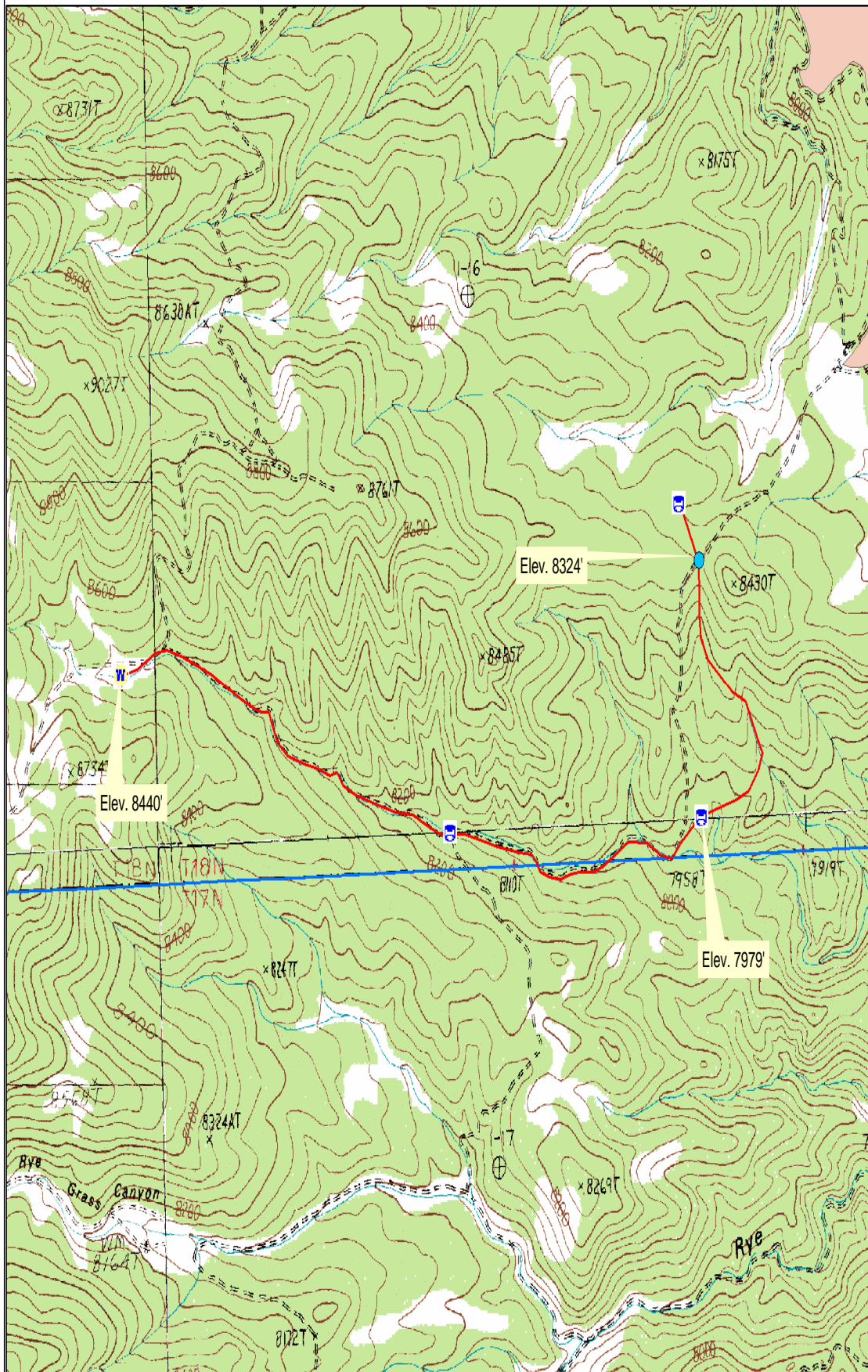
The Risk Rating is obtained by multiplying Factor 1 by Factor 2.

For this project, the Risk Rating is (low, 9) at the present time. This means that the project can proceed as planned. The BLM heavy equipment used to rip in the pipeline should be clean prior to entering the project area. Control treatments would be initiated on noxious weed populations that get established in the project area. The pipeline should be monitored the first year following pipeline construction for noxious weeds. It is possible noxious weed seed could be imported to the area via livestock, wildlife, people, vehicles, or other modes of transport.

Reviewed by: _____

Date:

Corral Well Pipeline Water Distribution System



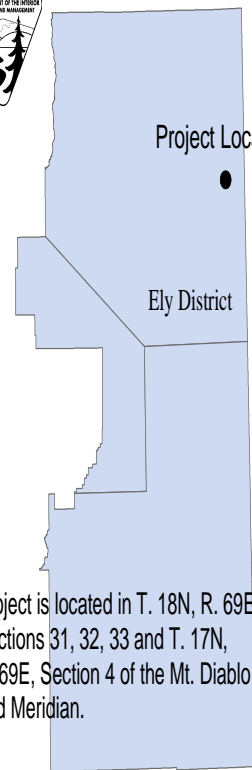
Legend

- Proposed Pipeline
- Corral Well
- Highest Point
- Proposed Trough
- Forest Service Boundary
- Wilderness Study Area

0.5

Miles

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



Project is located in T. 18N, R. 69E, Sections 31, 32, 33 and T. 17N, R. 69E, Section 4 of the Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian.

Map Courtesy: City Counts
06/2004